

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

TROPICAL STORM ERNESTO

SITUATION REPORT # 4

1500 Hours 31 August 2006

New Information in Bold Italics

SUMMARY

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management/Virginia Emergency Operations Center has increased its awareness and preparation for the possible impact of Tropical Storm Ernesto.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at Increased Readiness condition, monitoring National Hurricane Center advisories, National Weather Service and River Forecast Center forecasts, coordinating conference calls, and producing Situation Reports. ***FEMA ERT-A has arrived at the VEOC. The following VERT Emergency Support Functions (ESF) have been activated: Federal Coordinating Officer, ESF #5 Emergency Management, Logistics, Planning; ESF #14 Long-term Community Recovery and Mitigation (Preliminary Damage Assessment section), ESF #1 Transportation, ESF #3 Public Works, ESF #10 Oil and Hazardous Materials Response, Emergency Planning Liaison Officer, Joint Information Center – Public Affairs, and External Affairs. All ESFs except 2 and Volunteers and Donations will be activated on 1 September.***

VDEM Priorities: Expand monitoring of the storm; Prepare for augmentation of the VEOC; Increase communications with Federal, State, Local, Volunteer and Private Partners; Coordinate Logistics readiness; Ensure communications systems are at peak readiness; Develop External Affairs Strategy.

STATE OF EMERGENCY

Governor Timothy M. Kaine declared a state of emergency for the Commonwealth of Virginia today, August 31, 2006, allowing the deployment of Virginia National Guard personnel and other assets in preparation for Tropical Depression Ernesto. The declaration instructs state agencies to take all reasonable actions necessary to protect the health and safety of Virginians. The Governor's emergency declaration authorizes state agencies to speed assistance to communities in need. It makes state resources immediately available to rescue, evacuate, shelter, and provide essential commodities in affected localities if needed.

Protective Actions: Planned Local Activation of EOC:

City of Richmond – 31 August at 1300 hours

City of Colonial Heights – 31 August at 600 hours

Henrico County – 31 August evening, partial

Fairfax County – 31 August, partial

ESF 15 – External Affairs: Distributing press releases and fielding media inquiries. Virginia Legislators have been added to the distribution list for Situation Reports. Joint Information Center (JIC) is operational.

WEATHER FORECAST

Hazardous Weather Outlook, Thursday 31 August: Flash Flood Watch remains in effect for most of the State. Showers and thunderstorms will continue to produce periods of heavy rain with widespread heavy rain overnight. **Forecast 31 August:** Showers and thunderstorms throughout the Commonwealth with locally heavy rainfall possible. High temperatures will range from low 70's to mid 70's and overnight low temperatures will range from low upper 50's to upper 60's. Winds will be variable 10 to 15 MPH.

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Hazardous Weather Outlook, Friday 1 September: Very heavy rain will continue on Friday as Ernesto impacts the Commonwealth. Additional significant heavy rain can be expected along with wind gusts to 35 or 40 MPH which could topple trees given wet soil conditions. **Forecast 1 September:** Shower and thunderstorms as Ernesto impacts the Commonwealth. Locally heavy rainfall is possible. High temperatures will range upper 60's to low 70's and overnight low temperatures will range from upper 50's to mid 60's. Winds will be North-Northeast 15 to 20 MPH with gust up to 30 MPH.

OPERATIONS SECTION

ESF 5 – Emergency Management: Virginia is currently at Hurricane Readiness Condition 4 and the Region 3, FEMA Liaison Representative arrived on Wednesday, 30 August. Regional Conference Calls for localities and National Weather Service were held on, Wednesday 30 August, as follows: VDEM Regions 1 and 5 – 1000 hours; VDEM Regions 2, 3 and 7 – 1045 hours; VDEM Regions 4 and 6 – 1130 hours. A Conference Call with State Agencies for a briefing by the National Weather Service, Wakefield Office, was conducted on Wednesday, 30 August at 1400 hours. VDEM on Wednesday, August 30 also participated in the State of Maryland Conference Call at 1100 hours, the National FEMA Conference call at 1200 hours, the FEMA Region III Conference Call at 1300 hours, and the South East River Forecast Center at 1330 hours. ***Regional Conference Calls were held Thursday, August 31 for localities and National Weather Service as follows: VDEM Regions 1 and 5 – 1000 hours; VDEM Regions 2, 3 and 7 – 1045 hours; VDEM Regions 4 and 6 – 1130 hours. A Conference Call with State Agencies for a briefing by the National Weather Service, Wakefield Office, was conducted on Thursday, 31 August at 1400 hours***

STATE WARNING POINT: Monitoring National Hurricane Center and local National Weather Service office advisories.

LOCAL LIAISON: *Standing by to assist localities as requested.*

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 8 – Public Health & Medical Services: 11 personnel from VA-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team, Norfolk VA, have deployed to Atlanta, GA and 21 have been placed on standby by FEMA/NDMS.

ESF 9 – Search & Rescue: VA Task Force 1, Fairfax County, and VA Task Force 2, VA Beach, deployed Type-III teams to Jacksonville, Florida in support of Tropical Storm Ernesto by FEMA. Virginia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol has been placed on alert status by VDEM Search and Rescue Coordinator. ***VA Task Force 1, Fairfax County, has returned to base and Task Force 2, Virginia Beach, is scheduled to arrive at base 1700, 31 August. State Police Swiftwater Rescue Teams are pre-positioned. Team 1 will pre-deploy to the Pittsylvania / Halifax county area. NWS is predicting a probable flooding event along the Dan River. Team 2 will stage in the Fredericksburg. This team would be more mobile and could potentially move in ahead of the flooding as the storm progresses north.***

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation: VA Department of Transportation has completed preparations in accordance with Hurricane Readiness Condition 4 and is reviewing their checklist for Hurricane Readiness Condition 3. U.S. Coast Guard Section Hampton Roads reports that the Captain of the Port has, as of 900 hours, 30 August set Port Condition WHISKEY (gale force winds are possible within 72 hours) for Tropical Storm Ernesto. The Port of Hampton Roads remains open to all vessel traffic and commercial activities. However, all mariners are advised to maintain extra precautions as the port can expect strong east to northeast winds the first half of Friday 1 September.

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support: Standing by to coordinate federal identification and establishment of Mobilization Center and Staging Areas for commodities. FEMA has pre-positioned 90 trailers in VA and 20 more are projected to arrive on 31 August and 1 September. VDEM is mapping potential points of

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distribution and awaiting input from localities. VDEM has 531 generators, ranging from 20 KW to 1500 KW; 301 pumps, ranging for 4" to 16"; and 45 truck loads of water available and other various commodities from state contractors. 2,400,000 heater meals available

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